

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 THE HA 02672 240626Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 TRSE-00 /069 W
-----240631Z 017061 /12

R 231527Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 543
INFO EC COLLECTIVE
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 2672

USNMR HAPE FOR POLAD

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT NL
SUBJECT: DUTCH ELECTIONS--A CLOSE RACE EXPECTED

1. HOLLAND GOES TO THE POLLS MAY 25 TO ELECT A NEW SECOND CHAMBER OF THE STATES GENERAL. ALTHOUGH SOME 25 PARTIES ARE COMPETING FOR THE 150 SEATS IN THE LOWER HOUSE OF THE DUTCH PARLIAMENT NO MORE THAN THE 14 REPRESENTED IN THE LAST ASSEMBLY AND PERHAPS A FEW LESS CAN REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO DRAW THE TWO-THIRDS OF A PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTE TO WIN A SEAT. IF ATTENTION SHOWN BY THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC OPINION POLLS IS ANY GUIDE, THE ELECTION, RATHER THAN DEMONSTRATING ANY PRONOUNCED SWING TO EITHER POLE WILL RESULT IN A GROWTH OF THE THREE DOMINANT PARTIES IN DUTCH POLITICS AT THE EXPENSE OF SOME MINOR PARTIES.

2. DESPITE THE PROLIFERATION OF PARTIES (EVERYTHING
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 THE HA 02672 240626Z

FROM MAOISTS TO NEO-FASCISTS, FUNDAMENTALIST PROTESTANTS AND TRADITIONALIST CATHOLICS, OLD AGE PENSIONERS AND A MOVEMENT AGAINST CIVIL SERVANT ARBITRARINESS), THE DUTCH ELECTION HAS COME DOWN TO A THREE HORSE RACE BETWEEN LABOR (PVDA), CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (CDA) AND LIBERALS (VVD). ATTENTION IS INCREASINGLY FOCUSED ON THEIR THREE LIST LEADERS, PRIME MINISTER JOOP DEN UYL

(PVDA) DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DRIES VAN AGT (CDA) AND OPPOSITION LEADER HANS WIEGEL ;VDL. "VICTORY" IN THE ELECTION WILL BE DETERMINED BY HOW WELL THOSE THREE DO IN PULLING VOTES FOR THEIR PARTIES. IF ALL PICK UP A FEW SEATS THEY COULD ALL CLAIM TO HAVE "WON."

3. A CLOSE RACE IS FORECAST BETWEEN THE LARGEST OF THE TWO PARTIES, LABOR AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, WITH THE LIBERALS CONTINUING IN THIRD PALCE. AT THE LAST ELECTION IN 1972 THE THREE SEPARATE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, CATHOLIC, ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY AND CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL, CON 48 SEATS, LABOR TOOK 43 AND THE LIBERALS 22. SEVERAL RECENT OPINION POLLS INDICATE THAT THE PVDA AND CDA ARE IN A NECK AND NECK RACE. WITH SOME 16 PERCENT OF THE VOTERS STILL UNDECIDED FORECASTERS SEE THE TWO PARTIES WINNING BETWEEN 43 AND 52 DEATS. DEN UYLS LABOR PARTY SEENS TO HAVE OVERCOME AN EARLY LEAD BY VAN AGT'S CDA AND COULD JUST NOSE IT OUT TO EMERGE AS THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST PARTY. WIEGEL'S VVD SEEMS SET TO REGISTER A GAIN OVER 1972, BUT ALSO HAS SLIPPED IN VOTER POPULARITY FROM ITS POSITION EARLY IN THE CAMPAIGN. THE VVD IS NOW IN THE 25-31 SEAT RANGE. THE ONLY OTHER PARTY WHICH POLLSTERS PICK TO POSSIBLY REGISTER A NOTEWORTH GAIN IS D'66, A LEFT CENTER MEMBER OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT WHICH NOW HOLDS SIX SEATS.

4. THE LARGE BLOCK OF UNDECIDED VOTERS MAY MASK SOME HIDDEN STRENGTH FOR SMALL PARTIES. IT IS NOT CLEAR
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 THE HA 02672 240626Z

HOW MANY SUPPORTERS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY (CPN) AND FRINGE PARTIES AT BOTH ENDS OF THE SPECTRUM ARE WILLING TO EXPRESS THEIR TRUE OPINIONS TO POLLSTERS. ALTHOUGH THE POLLS INDICATE SOME STRENGTH FOR SMALL PARTIES, IT IS THOUGHT THAT SEVERAL GROUPS WHICH GET NO SUPPORT IN OPINION POLLS AT ALL MAY IN FACT WIN A SEAT OR TWO. EVEN SO, ON CURRENT EVIDENCE, 1977 SEEMS TO BE THE YEAR FOR DUTCH VOTERS TO CHOOSE, MORE THAN THEY HAVE IN THE PAST BETWEEN THREE MAIN LINES, THE SOCIALISTS ON THE LEFT, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS IN THE CENTER AND LIBERALS ON THE RIGHT.

5. SHOULD CURRENT TRENDS HOLD THROUGH THE MAY 25 ELECTION NONE OF THE LARGE PARTIES WILL BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE A CLEAR VOTER PREFERENCE FOR THEIR PROGRAM. ALL COULD DO WELL, BUT PERHAPS NOT WELL ENOUGH TO CLAIM A MANDATE FROM THE VOTERS. REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME, ALL OBSERVERS HERE LOOK FOR A DIFFICULT, AND PERHAPS LONG DRAWN OUT CABINET FORMATION.

MCCLOSKEY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION FORECASTS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977THEHA02672
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770184-0637
Format: TEL
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770526/aaaaawri.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bd9cbf8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2400519
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DUTCH ELECTIONS--A CLOSE RACE EXPECTED
TAGS: PINT, NL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bd9cbf8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009